

Board for Penn State Worthington Campus. Michael is a Certified Public Accountant and operates his own private practice. He sits on the Board of Directors for Broadway in Scranton. Michael has also served as Chairman of the Board for the ARC of NEPA, The March of Dimes, and as a board member of Allied Services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Donna and Michael Barbetti. Their selfless devotion to the arts has enriched the lives of many and has had a lasting, positive impact on the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING MR. RUSTY CARTER

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army veteran Rusty Carter for his service to our country. Rusty is a long-time Delaware County resident who enlisted in the Army in April, 2009. Rusty became a paratrooper with the "Screaming Eagles" of the famed 101st Airborne Division. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 and in July of that year came under heavy enemy fire. Rusty was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries in the battle but just a month later was back in the fight. Rusty was again injured in a Humvee accident in 2011. He'll receive the Freedom Medal from the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association tonight.

IN HONOR OF WINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 2015 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Wines Elementary School. For over fifty years, Wines Elementary School has benefited our community through its dedication to the education and development of Ann Arbor's youth. The U.S. Department of Education recognized this commitment by naming the school a 2015 National Blue Ribbon Award recipient.

Founded in 1957, Wines Elementary School's mission is to "create for every student a joyful environment that stimulates lifelong learning and inspires respect for individual differences." The school has actively worked to instill this mission by making community and family participation a cornerstone in the life of each student. Family volunteers organize community events such as the annual Run-a-Thon, in which students run laps around a track to raise money for charity, a movie night, and a country fair, as well as many other fun events. The school also partners with local charities and nursing homes to ensure students are provided opportunities to participate in and give back to their community.

In addition to active community involvement, Wines Elementary School has worked to strengthen all of its students by focusing on

each individual as a unique and capable learner. This has been done through the creation of personalized learning plans which ensures each teacher understands the special needs of their students. The hard work of students, teachers, and parents has resulted in excellent academic achievement. Their standardized tests scores have registered in the top 5% of all Michigan schools in combined measures of student achievement and growth. This earned the school the designation from the Michigan Department of Education as a Reward School and led the department to nominate the school for the National Blue Ribbon Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the teachers, students and parents of Wines Elementary School. Their multifaceted methods to prepare our children have created a vibrant community which will invigorate Ann Arbor for years to come.

IN HONOR OF MISS RUTHA MAE HARRIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary singer and activist in the Civil Rights Movement, Miss Rutha Mae Harris. Miss Harris will be celebrating her 75th birthday on Friday, November 27, 2015.

Miss Rutha Harris was born on November 27, 1940 in Albany, Georgia to the late Reverend and Mrs. I.A. Harris. She attended Albany's public schools, graduating from Monroe High School in 1958 and Albany State College, now Albany State University, in 1970. She also studied at Valdosta State University, Dillard University, and Florida A&M University.

In 1961, Miss Harris, who always had a love and talent for singing, joined the Original Freedom Singers. The Freedom Singers traveled more than 50,000 miles singing for the cause of freedom and raising funds for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). During the Albany Movement, Miss Harris was thrown several times into the same jail where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was jailed on multiple occasions.

In 1963, the Freedom Singers were signed to a recording contract with Mercury Records. This was the beginning of Miss Harris's professional career and helped propel her to the national stage. She performed in 46 states and the Virgin Islands, in renowned venues such as Radio City Music Hall in New York City and the Civic Opera House in Chicago, Illinois. The Freedom Singers also performed at the March on Washington in Washington, D.C. in 1963.

In addition to performing with the Freedom Singers, Miss Harris also recorded with the Landmark Gospel Singers, Georgia Mass Choir, and the legendary Whitney Houston. One of the highlights of Miss Harris's professional career was being selected to perform with the Georgia Mass Choir in the film, "The Preacher's Wife," starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. In 2004, Miss Harris recorded her first album, "I'm on the Battlefield."

In 1998, Miss Harris organized the Albany Civil Rights Museum (now Institute) Freedom Singers. This group performs every second

Saturday of the month and travels to other cities. This group, along with the Albany Civil Rights Institute, helps to keep the Albany Movement alive for younger generations to learn of the passion and sacrifices made by their ancestors.

Miss Harris has been widely recognized for her music, her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, and her continued activism. She received the Martin Luther King Dream Award in 2001 and the Trailblazer Award for Outstanding Work Preserving, Promoting, and Advancing the Tradition of African American Music in 2013, among many other awards and accolades. On February 9, 2010, Miss Harris had the honor of performing at the White House for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in a special event, "In Performance at the White House: A Celebration of Music from the Civil Rights Movement."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." The Freedom Singers brought light and love to those on both sides of the Civil Rights Movement. Miss Harris has helped to keep this light and love alive through her continued performances and her efforts to preserve the successes of the Movement for younger generations to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in commending and recognizing Miss Rutha Mae Harris for the inspiring life that she leads. We extend our best wishes to her as she and her family and friends prepare to celebrate her 75th birthday.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN COOK

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Cook, a Marine from Delaware County, Pennsylvania. John joined the Corps fresh out of high school, and served under Col. Lewis "Chesty" Puller. John landed with the Marines at Incheon and served in "Masacre Valley" during Operation Killer in February 1951. He was discharged in 1952 as a Sergeant, having served his country with honor and distinction. John will be honored with the Freedom Medal tonight at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association Annual Dinner. It's a fitting honor for a man who served his country ably in Korea.

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WINS THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SOLAR DECATHLON

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Stevens Institute of Technology's remarkable achievement in winning the Department of Energy's prestigious Solar Decathlon. The competition challenges collegiate teams to spend almost two